

and I feel sure that, although greatly outnumbered by her enemies, she will hold her own on account of her efficiency.

The English are of German extraction and the English language is a modified Saxon or Low German dialect. The English are nearer kin to the North Germans than are the Danes or the other Scandinavians,—nearer even than the South Germans are to the North Germans. I have always cherished a high opinion of the English nationality as well as the English language. I am positive that if I could be shown by facts and sound argument that the Germans are wrong in this present war I would vigorously stand up against them as I did at the time of the Dewey-Dietrich quarrel when I did not hesitate to express my views on the subject in unequivocal terms. I would consider it a sign of cowardice on my part if I shrank from speaking out plainly what I have found to be the truth. Convince me that I am wrong, but do not attribute my position to “racial feeling” which makes me “forsake love for scientific accuracy and truth, for the sophistries of a partisan propagandist.”

I know that most people do not take sides in this war on rational grounds but from sentimental impulse, and it is hopeless to convince any one by argument after he has once taken his stand. The large masses of people are absolutely deaf to argument. Nevertheless I would act against my conscience if I concealed my conviction.

My duty to speak out boldly is the more imperative since I see a tremendous danger threatening our national independence. I came to this country as an American, not as a German. I believe in American ideals, but I am shocked at the sight of Americans turning traitors to their own Americanism. We are not endangered by Germany, but we are endangered by England and her ally Japan. At present the Japanese danger is the more acute, but the English is the more insidious. It has poisoned the minds of our leaders, and the final result will be the loss of our independent development. I know that some of my pro-British friends would not grieve over it because they bow down before the British ideal. They think that we would gain by recognizing English superiority, by overcoming our crudeness and imbibing English civilization, yea, identifying ourselves with Anglicism. I am an American of the old style, and if the new pro-British Americanism should become our national ideal, officially recognized not only by one transient administration but with full conviction endorsed by the people, by the whole people, I would regret ever having set foot on this shore and would feel a longing to emigrate to some other country where the spirit of the old Americanism, the spirit of Washington and Franklin, of Jefferson and Hamilton, and of Lincoln, is alive. I would bid goodbye to my American countrymen and would wish them God speed, but would say: You are no longer truly American! you are pseudo-American; you have lost the old vigorous American spirit; you have forsaken your own traditions; you have forfeited the blessings for which your fathers fought.

WATER-POWER CONSERVATION.

While our president keeps us bewildered with his pro-British policy and while our dailies concentrate our attention on the chase our troops are giving to Villa, there are those who claim that the American people are being robbed in the most legal and thorough style by laws which are donating enormous

riches of national resources to some bold grabbers, and that those whose duty it would be to protect the people are too much interested in other affairs to come to the rescue.

The law under special consideration is the Shields bill, and its supporters claim that its purpose is to make possible the development of water-power which has been held up for eight years by the absence of proper legislation. Mr. Gifford Pinchot on the other hand believes that this measure would turn over to the power interests in perpetuity (although there is a pretended fifty years limitation) water-power equivalent to twice the mechanical power of every kind now used in the United States, or enough to meet the needs of two hundred million people. Former Secretary James R. Garfield agrees with Mr. Pinchot in regarding the Shields bill as iniquitous. He says:

"These laws turn over to private monopoly public power in perpetuity. The fifty years' limitation as proposed is nothing more than a mere fiction. I realize the need of water-power development. I have no patience with that conservation which ties up our natural resources, but neither have I any patience with that conservation which destroys the public interest."

Strangely enough the Conservation Congress which met in Washington during the first week in May favored the passage of the bill but its opponents claim that the Congress was greatly under the influence of the special power interests. Mr. Pinchot favors the Ferris bill but considers the Myers bill an unsatisfactory substitute.

"J'ACCUSE."

The book "I Accuse! (*J'accuse!*) by a German" was highly recommended to me by several of my anti-German friends. So I bought it and perused it in the hope of learning some new facts about the war and finding some arguments in favor of the Allies' cause which I had not sufficiently appreciated. But I was disappointed. In fact I doubt the statement which the editor of the book, Dr. Anton Suttner, a Swiss lawyer, makes in his preface: "The book *J'accuse*, written by a German patriot, and entrusted to me, is herewith presented to the public. I regard this work as an act which can only confer a blessing on the German people and on humanity, and I accordingly assume responsibility for its publication."

A perusal of the book proves positively that the author is not a German patriot. He is well informed concerning German affairs and accordingly we may assume that he is a German and that the misstatements which he introduces here and there are intentional. The treatment of the material indicates that he is plainly a traitor and has written the book for the sake of misrepresenting the German cause. There are however some strange and ridiculous mistakes in the book, such as would be almost impossible for a German, and which may have been introduced by the translator, Alexander Gray. I will only mention that in a footnote on page 14, Ernst Haeckel is called "the celebrated professor of theology."

Much light is shed on the authorship of the book in a statement which has appeared in a German weekly (*Deutsche Volkszeitung*) published at Amsterdam, Holland, whose editor had information from Switzerland to the effect that the editor of *J'accuse* is, or rather was, a lawyer of Bern who was